

and Navy. Its members are appointed solely for fitness, and their business in life is fighting disease—largely through quarantine work. They are seasoned veterans in that peculiar warfare. Their commanding officer, the Surgeon General, is always one of the most experienced men, and while it might happen that he was not the man in the service best fitted for that position, it would always be true that he had been thoroughly trained in the business. And if it were our personal business involving great consequences to us, as the proper management of our quarantine service does to the people of our country, we would not hesitate a moment in deciding in favor of trained experts—and we do not believe the candid reader would either.

Another objection, we think, is the large and unwieldy advisory council, strange as it may sound, coming from one of the beneficiaries of that feature with its delightful semi-annual visit to our beautiful capital city, with all expenses paid by Uncle Sam. While we might be able to tell the Commissioner of Public Health, recently appointed from civil life, something he did not know about disinfection and quarantine, it would be much better to have some one in charge who could tell us something we did not know, perhaps.

And besides, there would be so many conflicting views, probably, and so many modifications of the rules for particular localities desired that confusion rather than enlightenment might be the result.

While we do not deny that, in many instances, there is wisdom in a multitude of counsellors, we have come to the deliberate conclusion, after considerable experience, that in sanitary matters an enlightened despotism—an organization with the power and the will to override merely individual or local preferences in the interests of the whole people, would be best. We are afraid that our confreres will think this rank heresy, but it is what we believe, nevertheless.

[From Bulletin, February, 1898.]

The Quarantine Convention of the South Atlantic and Gulf States, which met at Mobile on the 9th instant, after a session of three days, which included many learned papers and excellent speeches, we are informed, finally expressed its conclusions in the following resolutions:

“*Resolved*. That it is the sense of this Convention that Congress be requested to provide for a Department of Public Health as soon as possible.

“2. That it is the sense of this Convention that Congress should enact laws to provide for an efficient maritime quarantine to be uniform and impartial in its application to the different commercial ports of this country, so as to give no one or more of them undue